

New Hampshire's Clean School Bus Initiative

What's New?

New Hampshire gets EPA grant to retrofit buses in Nashua and Manchester

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently awarded a \$100,000 grant to the N.H. Department of Environmental Services (DES) to retrofit at least 45 school buses in Manchester and Nashua with pollution control technology. The grant was awarded to DES in partnership with the Manchester School District, Nashua School District, Manchester Transit Authority, and First Student of Nashua. The retrofit project will result in significant reductions in small particle pollution and toxic emissions from the diesel exhaust emissions of the 45 buses.

The \$100,000 grant is a 2004 Clean School Bus USA demonstration grant awarded through a nationwide competitive process. The federal funds will be

matched with local contributions of over \$30,000. Installation of diesel oxidation catalysts on the buses will begin this fall and be completed within the next one to two years.



Senator Sununu and Congressman Bradley join EPA Administrator Robert Varney in presenting grant award to Nashua and Manchester officials.



Benefits of the School Bus Retrofit Project

- ✓ Helps protect the health of drivers and students from the harmful effects of diesel exhaust fumes.
- ✓ Improves air quality by reducing ozone-forming air pollutants.
- ✓ Reduces emissions of small particle pollution by 30%, hydrocarbons by 50%, and carbon monoxide by 40%, per bus.
- ✓ Requires low maintenance.
- ✓ Uses conventional diesel fuel.
- ✓ Demonstrates the effectiveness of retrofit technology for heavy-duty diesel vehicles.

How Are Children Affected By Diesel Exhaust?

Air pollution from diesel vehicles poses a health risk for everyone, but children are more susceptible to this pollution because they breathe at a faster rate than adults. Children's lungs are still developing, and children are more likely to play actively outdoors. Exposure to diesel exhaust can cause lung damage and respiratory problems and can aggravate asthma and existing allergies. More than 24 million children in the United States ride a bus to and from school every day. There are many things fleet managers and bus drivers can do to reduce school bus exhaust and protect the health of drivers and students. (See reverse.)



What is Government Doing?

EPA is working to reduce pollution from new diesel buses by requiring them to meet tougher emission standards in the future. Tighter standards for new buses are scheduled to take effect starting in 2004 and again in 2007. These standards won't apply to existing buses, however, and school buses can be in operation for 20 to 30 years. Without special action, it will take many years before new buses meeting the new pollution limits dominate our school bus fleet. In fact, today's kindergarten children will be in college before the fleet fully turns over to reflect the benefits of the new standards.

Fleet Managers and Bus Drivers Make A Difference!

Here's How You Can Help

Reduce Idling - To Help Improve Air Quality and Save Money!

Idling school buses pollute the air that children breathe. Pollutants can accumulate inside the bus and outdoors near the bus. Exhaust from idling engines may also enter school buildings through ventilation systems, affecting indoor air quality as well. Drivers may occasionally need to let their engines idle briefly to warm the engine or run equipment like defrosters, but most idling is not necessary. Eliminating unnecessary idling is a simple, cost-effective way to help reduce children's exposure to air pollution.

No-Idling Tips for School Bus Drivers

- Turn buses off as soon as you arrive at loading or unloading areas and refrain from restarting your buses until you are ready to depart.
- Limit idling time during early morning warm-up to what is recommended by the manufacturer (generally 3 to 5 minutes).
- During the winter months, use block heaters if possible to help warm the engines of older buses, avoid starting difficulties, and shorten warm-up time. Newer buses are designed to start easily at all temperatures without idling.
- Ask that schools provide a space inside where you can wait if you arrive early or during school activities.

Remember the Rule - No Idling at School!

Implement Smart Driving Practices

- Evaluate route schedules to limit student time on the bus. School bus routing software is available to help fleet managers evaluate student locations, speed limits and number of stops to help determine most efficient routes (call DES for more information).
- Assign cleanest, newest buses to the longest trips and routes.
- Don't follow other diesel vehicles too closely – this can contribute to higher concentrations of diesel exhaust inside and outside the bus.

N.H. Department of Environmental Services Can Help

DES provides free "Clean Air Driver" dashboard magnets to all bus drivers who reduce idling whenever possible. DES also has flyers and tip cards to distribute to drivers and post on bulletin boards. DES staff are available to assist fleet managers and bus drivers during training sessions, to discuss health issues related to diesel exhaust, and to discuss how they can help protect themselves and school children. To learn more, contact Kathy Brockett at 271-6284 or

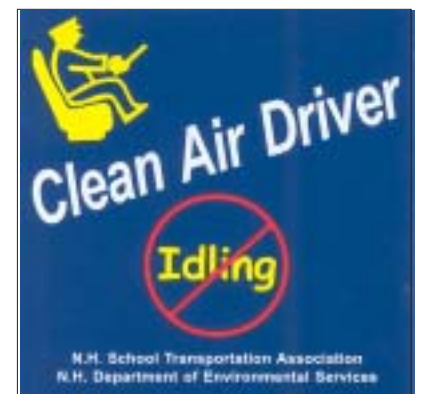
kbrockett@des.state.nh.us.

Check out the DES website at
[www.des.nh.gov/ARD/](http://www.des.nh.gov/ARD/MobileSources/SchoolBusInitiative)
MobileSources/SchoolBusInitiative



New Hampshire School Bus Drivers Make Anti-Idling Campaign a Five Star Success

Over 35 school bus fleets have signed on to New Hampshire's anti-idling campaign, representing 70% of drivers throughout the state. According to participating fleet managers, bus drivers have reduced idling time by an average of 20 minutes per bus per day since the anti-idling campaign began two years ago.



Sample Magnet